



Making Tracks

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Making Tracks
Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.mdc.mo.gov

Attention Teachers of Grades K-12!



The Missouri Botanical Garden and Conservation Department are pleased to offer a very special workshop called “A Day on the Prairie” on September 24, at Shaw Nature Reserve in Gray Summit. This workshop will present prairie ecology, cultural-human diversity and literature through several informative sessions such as prairie birds and insects, field investigations, medicinal plants, nature journaling and much more. A fee of \$20 covers all field materials, lunch and several resources to take back to the classroom. Call (314) 577-9506 to reserve your spot today.

**For Busch and Henges Range
information and activities,
please call (636) 441-4554
for a free subscription to
Conservation Connections.**



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Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

September 2005 Volume 05, Number 09



Bush honeysuckle is the common name for a group of exotic shrubs that have invaded parts of Missouri and many northeastern states. Bush honeysuckles are native to Eurasia (Japan, China, Korea, Manchuria, Turkey and southern Russia) and were brought to the United States for use as ornamentals, wildlife habitat and for soil erosion control.

Bush honeysuckles are deciduous shrubs that range between 6 and 15 feet tall when mature. The leaves are oval-shaped and 1 to 2 ½ inches long. Leaves are opposite along the stem and have short stalks. The flowers are very fragrant and vary from white to pink in color. The plants produce large numbers of reddish-orange berries that have multiple seeds. Bush honeysuckle is one of the first plants to sprout new leaves in the spring and tends to hold its leaves longer than other plants in the fall.

Bush honeysuckles are relatively shade-intolerant and most often occur along forest edges, old fields and roadsides. However, they can invade woodland areas that have been grazed by livestock or otherwise disturbed. You can find bush honeysuckle in urban areas as well as in rural areas. Because the exotic bush honeysuckles produce large amounts of berries, they are highly attractive to birds and other wildlife as a food source in the fall. The seeds are dispersed by birds and mammals, which results in the establishment of new populations of bush honeysuckle.

Natural sites can rapidly be invaded by bush honeysuckle. The shrubs form a dense layer that crowds and shades out most native plant species. They alter habitats by decreasing light availability, by depleting soil moisture and nutrients, and possibly by releasing toxic chemicals that prevent other plant species from growing in the vicinity. The exotic bush honeysuckles may compete with our native bush honeysuckles for pollinators, resulting in reduced seed production for native species. In addition, the fruits of exotic bush

BUSH HONEYSUCKLE: A Problem Plant

By John Vogel, Wildlife Management Biologist



honeysuckles, while abundant and rich in carbohydrates, do not offer migrating birds the high-fat, nutrient-rich food sources needed for long flights, that are supplied by native plant species. Some studies have even shown that bird nest success is lower when birds nest in bush honeysuckle rather than native shrubs.

Control of bush honeysuckle is done with several techniques, including: prescribed burning, hand pulling of stems, cutting and herbicide treatments. One of the most effective treatments in thick stands of bush honeysuckle is cutting and treating the cut stump of the shrub with a herbicide (typically glyphosate [Roundup]) to prevent re-sprouting. Brushcutters, chainsaws and hand pruners are the tools of choice when cutting bush honeysuckle. Prescribed-burning is effective in controlling young stands of bush honeysuckle or as a follow up treatment in mature stands that have been cut.



2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

8 Call of the Wild

Thursday 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

(Families) As easy as it sounds, some callers never master a basic quack, and then wonder why the ducks don't come in. Join us for a demonstration of duck calls as well as instruction on duck calling from a local professional guide. This program is offered for both non-hunters and hunters. *Naturalist: Mark Hunstein.* (Reservations begin August 24.)



10 Turtle Walk & Talk

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Families) Join us as we explore the anatomy of a turtle and see how these traits help turtles survive. We will observe several types of turtles in the classroom and in their natural habitat. *Naturalists: Trish & Glenn Senter & Angel Stahr.* (Reservations begin August 26.)

24 Clark Hike

Saturday 8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

(Adults) Come out and join us for a wonderful 5.3-mile hike on the Clark Trail at Weldon Spring Conservation Area. We will look for early fall colors and migrating hawks. The bluffs along the Missouri River give the hawks some excellent thermals to gain altitude during their southward migration in the fall. Learn how migrating hawks conserve energy to accomplish their amazing journey to the warmer climates for the winter months. *Naturalist: Marv Staloch.* (Reservations begin August 12.)

24 Scout Discovery Table: Forest Trees

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(Brownies, Juniors, Webelos) Trees are fun to climb, but did you ever stop and take a closer look at one? We'll look at a tree's growth rings, learn to identify some common trees by their leaves and get to better know our local trees. **Webelos:** Forester #3, #4; **Brownies:** Plants #2, #4; **Juniors:** Earth Connections #3, #4, #8; Science Discovery #5. *Naturalists: Glenn Senter & Joe Veras.* (No reservations necessary.)

26 Animal Architects

Monday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Ages 4-6) Animal architects explore the many ways mammals, birds and insects use their instincts and creativity to take what the environment provides them and shape it into a home. *Naturalist: Margaret McGregor.* (Reservations begin September 12.)

30 Persimmons

Friday 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(Ages 12 & up) Indulge yourself with the taste of Missouri's native treat, the persimmon. Will the fruit be ripe enough to eat before a frost? If the lowest branches are 10 feet off the ground, how will we select the edible fruit without climbing? How many cookies can be made from one cup of pulp? Will the opossums leave any fruit for us? Join us for an evening of culinary discovery. *Naturalist: Karen Staloch.* (Reservations begin September 16.)



Missouri Department of Conservation
Volunteering Naturally

Volunteers offer invaluable support to the Missouri Department of Conservation. They work with visitors and staff, flora and fauna, independently and in groups, on weekdays and weekends. They learn, help the conservation areas with education and conservation activities, and have fun! Our volunteers serve as "the face" of the conservation areas, greeting our visitors, staffing our reception desks and gift shops, reading stories to children, or leading educational programs. Other times, our volunteers work "behind the scenes" tending our wildflower gardens, assisting our wildlife biologists. Whatever they do, they do it out of love for the natural world, a passion for Missouri and the goodness of their hearts. From our perspective, that makes them just about the finest group of folks around!

There are numerous opportunities to support the Missouri Department of Conservation, and our nearly 200 volunteers in the St. Louis region take advantage of them every day. Here are just a few of the ways you can help out the Department of Conservation through volunteering: educating our visitors; working at our reception desks and gift shops; helping behind the scenes; and tending our wildflower gardens. Our volunteers contribute in many ways, from education to habitat restoration. To become a volunteer, you must successfully complete volunteer training, a learning program that combines six weeks (36 hours total) of classroom and field study with eight weeks (24 hours total) of self-scheduled experiential learning. Anyone with an interest in the natural world, who enjoys working with others and who has a desire to represent the Missouri Department of Conservation is encouraged to take volunteer training. In fact, we encourage you to invite like-minded friends to take volunteer training with you! It's a lot of fun and a great way to spend time with people who enjoy being a part of our programs. There is no expectation that you have previous experience in natural science or education. All you need is a healthy curiosity and a willingness to learn.

Volunteer involvement following training is vitally important to the volunteer program. To remain in good standing, graduates are required to volunteer 10 hours per month in a volunteer position and attend regular monthly meetings as well as two Volunteer Enrichments per year. There is no charge for the training. Once a year, in early September, the St. Louis Region Volunteer Department hosts a Prospective Volunteer Open House. These informational evening events include an overview of volunteering for the Department of Conservation, a slide show on specific programs and the opportunity to speak with current volunteers and staff.

This year's event has been scheduled for September 8, from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. If you would like to attend, please call the specific site at which you are interested in volunteering. We'll see you there!

August A. Busch
Columbia Bottom Conservation Area
Rockwoods Reservation
Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

(636) 300-1953 ext. 244
(314) 877-6019 ext. 26
(636) 300-1953 ext. 244
(314) 301-1500

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

11 Bird Fruit Feeders

Sunday 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
(Families) Bird-feeding season is approaching. Come join us and make a fruit feeder to attract some new birds to your back garden. *Naturalist: Jane Deschu.* (Reservations begin August 29.)

13 Nature’s Arborists

Tuesday 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
(Ages 6-10) Ever wonder why a forest keeps growing new trees? It has the help of nature’s arborists—squirrels. Come learn about the rodent that plants trees. Gain an understanding of how a tree grows and take home your own tree to plant in your forest! *Naturalist: Jill Welsh.* (Reservations begin August 29.)



Take the opportunity to hike one of Rockwoods Reservation’s wonderful trails this fall!

There are seven trails of varying degrees of length and difficulty. Some of the trails have interpretive brochures that you can take along on your hike so be sure to stop by the office for details. Remember to apply insect repellent and sunscreen, and to stay on the trail to avoid disturbing the habitat of many of our plant and animal friends. Have fun!

The **Green Rock Trail** is ten (10) miles in length. It is a primitive trail, meaning it’s not paved, so wear sturdy boots. The route is linear, so you’ll have to hike back the way you came. This is a pretty challenging trail, but well worth it; the views are spectacular and there are many interesting plants and trees to see.

The **Rock Quarry Trail** is 2.2 miles in length. This is one of the trails with an interpretive guide, so make sure you pick one up before you set off to hike. The trail itself is gravel paved and great for hiking. This is a multiple loop trail. The trail winds through an oak-hickory forest.

The **Lime Kiln Loop Trail** is 3.2 miles in length. It’s a single loop trail and the favorite of many hikers. This primitive trail also dictates that you wear sturdy boots and stay on the trail. The Lime Kiln Loop Trail takes you through a wide variety of environments, from bottomland forests to rocky ridges.

The **Prairie Trail** is one of our shorter trails. If you’re visiting Rockwoods for only a short time, make sure you hike this one. It is 0.3 mile in length, grass path, and a single loop design. Look for the interpretive sign on prescribed burns. This beautiful trail is made possible by prescribed burning!

The **Turkey Ridge Trail** is two miles long. It’s a single loop of moderate hiking level. There are no interpretive signs or brochures, so remember to take along your identification guides. Keep your eyes out for flying turkeys—they are commonly seen on this hike!

The **Wildlife Habitat Discovery Trail** is 0.3 mile in length, single loop and hard surface for handicap accessibility. There is a bench to stop, take a rest and listen to the forest. Another hiking trail you’ll want to take your identification books along on.

Trail Among the Trees is 1.5 miles in length. This is another favorite of many. Its paved and natural surfaces keep the difficulty at a moderate level. An interpretive guide illustrates human impact on this former mining area.

Remember when you’re hiking to take only photographs and leave only footprints. No pets are allowed at Rockwoods Reservation. Let someone know about your plans to hike and your estimated time of return. For more trail information, visit one of our nature shops and pick up a copy of *Conservation Trails: A Guide to Missouri Department of Conservation Trails* and other related publications. Enjoy the rest of your summer and autumn on Rockwoods Reservation trails.

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

1 ABC Nature Journal

Thursday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 3-5) What better way to learn the alphabet than by discovering nature’s alphabet. We will create our own ABC journal with findings from our outdoor search. Materials provided. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid.* (Reservations begin August 19.)

7 Retiree & Friends River Ramble

Wednesday 9 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 18 & up) The Retiree River Ramble is branching out! We welcome all adults who want to enjoy a leisurely hike to discover the unique wonders found at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. This month we will look for the first signs of autumn color and other indicators of the changing season. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lena Dowers.* (Reservations begin August 24.)

8 New Volunteer Open House

Thursday 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
(Ages 18 & up) Do you like working with people of all ages? Do you have a passion for nature that you would like to share with others? Have you ever thought about becoming a Volunteer Naturalist? Join us at the Open House to learn more about becoming a Volunteer Naturalist with the Missouri Department of Conservation. (Reservations begin August 1.)

9 Counting with Nature

Friday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 2-6) Can you think of animals that have eight legs, six legs, four legs, two legs and even no legs? I can! Let’s have some fun learning about numbers by counting with nature. We’ll discover that we can count everything we see from the number of legs on a spider to the petals on a flower to the birds outside the window. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lena Dowers.* (Reservations begin August 26.)

13 Babes in the Woods: Nature’s Colors

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
(Ages Birth-3) It’s never too early to begin exploring nature! We will explore nature’s colors as they begin to change. Join us for a stroller walk to find fascinating displays of nature’s beauty. Older siblings are also welcome. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid.* (Reservations begin August 31.)

15 It’s Not Just “Dirt”

Thursday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-15) Come explore the world of dirt beneath your feet. Discover where it comes from, what it is made of, and who lives in it. Find out how important it is and how we all depend on it. Get your hands dirty as you investigate it close up and meet some of the creatures who live in it. Create your own soil by making a worm bin to take home. *Volunteer Naturalist: Pat Behle.* (Reservations begin September 1.)

24 Johnny Appleseed

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Great things can come from little seeds. Johnny Appleseed was a champion for planting apple trees. Come to Johnny’s birthday party and learn about his love of trees through stories, crafts and games. Help us celebrate this wonderful American hero! *Volunteer Naturalist: Kathy Schroeder.* (Reservations begin September 9.)

24 Hiking 101

Saturday 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
(Ages 15 & up) Day hiking is a fun activity the whole family can enjoy! You can make it as easy as a stroll along a scenic self-guided trail or as challenging as a day of cross-country orienteering with your GPS. Attend Hiking 101 to start a healthy hobby that you can enjoy for a lifetime. After the program, hike the beautiful trails at Columbia Bottom! *Volunteer Naturalist: Denise Moorman.* (Reservations begin September 9.)



29 Splish! Splash! Nature’s Taking a Bath

Thursday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) Where will the water you drink this morning be tomorrow? Will it be part of a river or a raindrop or even a glacier? Join us as we explore the movement of water as it travels through nature’s water cycle. It’s sure to be a “waterful” experience. *Trail Ranger: Chiffontae Ross.* (Reservations begin September 15.)

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center hours are daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

3 Scout Discovery Table: Bird Identification & Flyways (Self-guided exhibit)

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(All Ages) Discover the wonders of Missouri birds and the location of their flyways while working on badges. Activities are designed for Junior Girl Scouts, cub Wolves and Webelos. Juniors can work on Let’s Get Outdoors: Wildlife 3 and 5. Webelos can work on Outdoor Group: Naturalist 3-5. Wolves can work on Birds: Elective 13 d. All are welcome and encouraged to check it out! Staff Naturalist: David Bradford. (No reservations necessary.)

7 Babes in the Woods

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages Birth-3) Introduce nature to the very young through a stroller walk on Tanglevine Trail. Volunteer Naturalist: Alma Dulz. (Reservations begin August 24.)

10 Water Wonders for Junior Girl Scouts

Saturday 9:30 a.m. – Noon
(Juniors Ages 8-11) Do your Scouts need something productive to do on a Saturday morning? Then sign them up as a Troop, or individual Scout, to complete at least four Water Wonders badge requirements. Staff Naturalist: Colleen Scott. (Reservations begin August 26.)

12 Hiking at Powder Valley

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) We will hike Broken Ridge Trail to observe the birds, trees and wildflowers. Volunteer Naturalist: Tom O’Gorman. (Reservations begin August 29.)

14 Invertebrate Detectives

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
(Ages 3-6) Investigate Powder Valley’s forest and garden. Look for invertebrates and the clues they leave behind. Staff Naturalist: Colleen Scott. (Reservations begin August 31.)

HOMESCHOOL

14 Arthropod Adaptations

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) After a short indoor introduction, venture outside to explore Powder Valley’s “mini” habitats. Learn basic collection and ID techniques. Staff Naturalist: Kevin McCarthy. (Reservations begin August 31.)

17 Forest Habitat Observation Walk

Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7 & up) How does topography or land type relate to the plants, trees and wildlife that live in the forest? Participants will observe these influences while walking the Hickory Ridge Trail. Staff Naturalist: David Bradford. (Reservations begin September 1.)

26 Hiking at Powder Valley

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) We will hike Broken Ridge Trail to observe the birds, trees and wildflowers. Volunteer Naturalist: Tom O’Gorman. (Reservations begin September 12.)

September Nature Shop Special

Conservation Trails: A Guide to Missouri Department of Conservation Hiking Trails, Second Edition

The trail guide has been completely revised to highlight 85 trails on 40 Missouri Department of Conservation areas. Many of the trails included in this book are open to foot traffic only. Some are open to horses and bicycles. Trail lengths vary from 0.2 mile to 18 miles, with hiking opportunities that range from easy and level paved paths to difficult and rugged natural-surface trails. This informative guide can be purchased at the Powder Valley Nature Shop for only \$4 through the month of September.



September

Karen Burke

Karen Hardesty Burke grew up in Kirkwood. Karen has been hooked on art since kindergarten, when an art teacher admired one of her drawings. She has attended adult education water color and oil painting classes and various art classes at Meramec College. During a business career and various hobbies, art time had dwindled to an occasional drawing or painting. In 2002 she felt the need to dedicate her spare time to En Plein Air painting. At that time an artist friend suggested painting together at Shaw’s Nature Reserve where they painted one to two times a week for over a year. The experience culminated in an art show at the Nature Reserve where they showed and sold many of their paintings. Actively witnessing the seasons change color; flowers; grasses and the splendor of nature has given Karen a greater understanding of the impressionist artists she so admires. Her body of work consists of mixed media, oil, pastels and acrylics. She looks forward to continuing her art with the endless subject matter contained in local conservation areas. Karen resides in Sullivan with her husband Tim. They enjoy camping, going for walks, exploring Missouri state parks and nature reserves, gardening, living in the country and spending time with their 11 grandchildren.

John Frieze

Adding a touch of the coast, along with his own personal flair, is Midwest artisan John Freise. He is a native of St. Louis, but recently migrated to the hills of southern Missouri. There he pursues his art of carving and designing shorebirds. From an early age his love for nature has remained constant. Through his journey in life, he realized that God had given him the gift to find his feathered friends in a piece of wood. John primarily uses white cedar in combination with oil paints to capture a primitive, aged feel and look. By using the four elements—earth, wind, fire and water—his hands are guided to create and capture the beauty of these wondrous creatures. His most recent work includes a special edition called the “Old Missouri Series.” This involves the use of reclaimed wood retrieved from circa 1800-1900 log homes and barns throughout rural Missouri. John hopes that his work will allow you to experience the connection to nature through the birds he enjoys creating. John is a juried member of the Best of Missouri Hands. In 2004, he designed a “Show-Me Peace” Turtle Dove for the Missouri governor’s Christmas tree. This piece will remain on display at the governor’s mansion. His work was just recently in Chicagoland’s Renowned Americana Show (“The Original” Country Folk Art Festival) and has been exhibited in a number of shows and galleries:
*200th Anniversary of Lewis & Clark at LaCharrette Fine Art & Craft Exhibition
*Boone Women Tribute Art & Antique Show
*Promenade Des Arts, Ste. Genevieve
*Randall Gallery, St. Louis
*ARTstravaganza at the St. Louis Artists’ Guild
*Rocheport Gallery, Rocheport
*Mo’sart Art Studio, Ste. Genevieve
*American Visions, St. Louis

Hallway Exhibit Artists

Mary Jane Henley-Telle

Mary Jane Henley-Telle is a native of Kirkwood where she learned to love nature and landscape. Her first paintings were done at her childhood home. Inspired by God, Mary Jane creates paintings that reflect the beauty of His world and the passion she feels for nature. Beginning with a sketch on-site or from one of her original photographs, Mary Jane hopes you will share the experience as she strives to capture the beauty of nature. Using oil or water colors, her commitment to realism is reflected in her Plein Air paintings. Mary currently lives in House Springs where she has a studio in her country home. She has studied with several St. Louis artists and belongs to Art Alliance. Her work has been shown at the St. Louis Artist Guild, Art World, Boon Women Tribute Art Show, Shaw Nature Reserve and the Washington Art & Wine Fest, to name a few. Mary Jane has been honored with many awards for her work.



Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

Shirley Fitzgibbons.....1100 hours	Dietz Mueller.....1300 hours	Bill Woodford.....200 hours
Maury Frein.....800 hours	Dale Rees.....2000 hours	Sharon Woodford.....200 hours
Arta Kirk.....1000 hours	Bernadette Sieving.....600 hours	John Hagar.....600 hours
Ed Liesenfeld.....800 hours		